

# The Sunday Herald.

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## IT WAS A JOLLY LENT.

SOCIETY HAS DONE A GREAT DEAL OF WINING AND DINING.

Then There Have Been Musicales, Receptions, and Theatre Parties, and Even a Little Quiet Dancing—Some of the Notable Affairs of the Penitential Season.

The Capital has never known a quieter season than that of 1890. But if the months usually devoted to gaiety were dull, Lent, sacred to sackcloth and ashes, has been gay in an extreme way never countenanced here before. There have been breakfasts, luncheons, dinners, teas, theatre parties, coaching parties, riding parties, driving parties, walking parties, literary symposiums, and what not. But for the warning church bells the fashionable West End would hardly have known Lent existed. Few invitations—none, perhaps, save those from the British Legation—have been issued for dancing parties, and what dancing has been done has been accomplished in a quiet way, and society correspondents have been asked not to make a note of it. Most of the evening entertainments have been musicales, or had some literary feature as an excuse for their being given in fast-time. The informal afternoon "at homes," both among the official and resident people, have been very popular. It is astonishing how many busy men find the opportunity to drop in for a fifteen-minute chat with the women who are attractive because of beauty, cleverness—or the excellence of their Madeira. Mr. Blaine, Mr. Cabot Lodge, Mr. Read, Mr. Hitt, and all of the foreigners can be met any pleasant day on their way to or from making a call, for they rarely make more than one of an afternoon. It is especially pleasant for a statesman to sit behind the tea table with some pretty and clever woman and listen to her remarks about his policy and politics in general—a mild sort of dissipation that is much indulged in by our great men. Mr. Blaine is devoted to driving in the country, and he is often seen in the State Department carriage, with one of his daughters or Mrs. Hitt or Mrs. Cabot Lodge as a companion. Cabot Lodge is fond of riding. He owns a magnificent animal and has investigated all the country roads in the vicinity. Riding grows in popularity here every year. Most of the society women ride, and cavaliers are in such demand that men who have heretofore had no social standing, but who own a decent animal and can sit it well, have been known to ride straight into the sacred precincts of Vanity Fair.

Mrs. Dahlgren, the widow of Admiral Dahlgren, who spends her summers in her rambling old home at historic South Mountain and her winters at the Capital, has given a series of literary evenings during Lent, at which she introduced the unique feature of having an original paper read by some well-known author. These evenings were very enjoyable, so successful that next winter others will doubtless adopt the idea, which is a good one, as the reading provides a subject for conversation in which every one can join. Mrs. Hearst is given to literary entertainments also, and at her formal and evening parties there is generally some literary feature. It was with joy that society received the announcement that her new home, which is the house occupied by the Fairchild's when Mr. Fairchild was Secretary of the Treasury, and which Mrs. Hearst has had remodeled and redecorated, would be opened with a musicale. Mrs. Hearst is an accomplished woman and an ideal hostess. Entertaining is a fine art which she has mastered and her invitations are always eagerly accepted. The Fairchild's musicale was admirably chosen, and her house, a recent gift from her father, is a bower of beauty. The Moorish ball-room, in which the musicale was given, is the coziest room devoted to the worship of Terpsichore in the city. Its decorations have been borrowed from the Alhambra, and the draperies, lanterns, rugs, and brie-a-brac carry one back to the Arabian Nights. At the musicale the whole house was thrown open to the guests, and for the first time society had an opportunity to inspect this charming interior. Dora Wheeler designed its decorations, and her work has been faithfully and conscientiously executed. The idea of some flower is expressed in each room. In the drawing-room it is roses, and the result is an exquisite harmony in pink. The bed chamber of the fair Chatelaine is a pearly-room and is a glow of purple and gold. Mrs. White is devoted to society, and like Mrs. Hearst, her house has been built with the idea of entertaining, and its arrangement is perfect.

Mr. John Hay gave a reception at which all the literary and most of the fashionable world appeared, and where some Indian children and their teachers from the Hampton School were the feature. Indians have become commonplace this winter. There have been so many of them with grievances of one sort or another. Washetunka, chief of the Kas, returns to his home feeling that in a social way he has been badly treated. After he had paid his respects at the Executive Mansion some one asked him how he enjoyed his call, and what he thought of the Great Father. Washetunka's dignity was great as he delivered himself of the following: "Me no like the Great Father. Me want to see the Great Father; me have something to say to him. The Great Father took me by the hand, and before me could say anything gave me a jerk which sent me down to the other end of the room. Washetunka, chief of the Kas, did not come here to be jerked by the Great Father."

Mrs. Henderson has been at home Friday evenings during Lent in her beautiful new house at the head of Sixteenth street. These receptions were unique for Washington, where the flowing bowl is an accepted fact and always expected, in that no wines are served. However, the hostess is charming, the house lovely, and one meets the most delightful people there.

Teas and receptions are always written up for

the papers, but dinners one scarcely hears of, unless the host has the ambition of a prominent official of a past administration, who, whenever he gave a dinner, wrote a glowing account of it and carried it himself to the papers. Paradoxical as it may seem, this Lent has been especially rich in dinners of the epicurean sort, where there have been not only a "feast of reason and a flow of soul," but fat canvas-backs, delicious terrapin, and forced vegetables. The President gives few dinner parties, but he has many friends to dinner informally. The Vice President's family have been away during nearly the whole of Lent, but since their return they have had one large official dinner and many small ones.

Mrs. Morton's duties sit lightly upon her, and she shows no bad effects from this season's duties, perhaps because she does not undertake too much, for unlike the Cabinet ladies, who have made most of their calls in person, Mrs. Morton returns her visits even on those who are considered by the resident people leaders in society by card. Mrs. Don Cameron, though still in mourning, has given many charming dinners this season to her own immediate circle, and her neighbors, the Blaines, like to have friends go to them informally for dinner. Both the German Minister and Count von Mumm, of the German Legation, give charming dinners. I believe the bachelor's dinners are the best of them all. There is a sort of piquancy in having no hostess. The Pan-Americans have been feasted to satiety, and whatever else they take home with them they will carry back an excellent opinion of American hospitality.

It seems after all that the Apollo of the Navy is not engaged to Miss Wanamaker. There has been a great deal of gossip and speculation about it, and now every one wonders how the rumor was started. A Washington season is never productive of very many engagements. Maidens are not lacking, but the beaux are most of them married or confirmed old bachelors. Desirable young men with handsome incomes are not a drug in the Capital market.

## PULL DOWN THE BLIND.

Advice Which Families With Private Secretaries in Them Should Not Disregard.

People who live in the new-fashioned houses, in the front and side elevations of which the modern architect scatters curious-shaped apertures, which he dignifies by the name of windows, should be careful to follow the advice of the late lamented ditty and "pull down the blinds." Sometimes this precaution is neglected, and to this was due the fact that a pedestrian caught a glimpse of a little incident the other evening which reminded him very strongly of the last act of "Peril," a play in which Mrs. Langtry has several times been seen in this city. The night was dark and stormy, the moon having been prevented by clouds from keeping its part of the street-lighting contract with the corporation, and the street lamps in consequence being unlighted. It was somewhat difficult for the writer to navigate, and his progress toward his domicile, situated in the north-western section, where rents are cheap and mud is plentiful, was necessarily slow and tedious. The light which struggled through the draperies of the windows of the residence adjacent to his route served from time to time to illuminate familiar landmarks, and one broad beam in particular, which shot out into the darkness from a window of a house of some pretensions, unobscured by lace or linen obstacles, was particularly gratifying to the pedestrian, and he involuntarily turned to observe the source from which it emanated. A scene rewarded his gaze which at once stirred the reporter's instinct inherent in his nature and chained him to the spot. Within a room the rich furniture of which denoted the taste and wealth of the occupants was seated, in a tete-a-tete chair, a woman elegantly dressed and of beautiful figure, but whose face, despite the aid of beauty's art, showed some signs of coming age. Her companion, however, was a graceful, handsome youth, and the attitude of the couple was, to say the least, extremely affectionate. The reporter was about to withdraw his unbidden gaze from this pretty picture of maternal love, supposing them to be mother and son, when wheels were heard rapidly approaching, a cab rattled up to the front door of the house, and a middle-aged, dignified-looking gentleman descended and ran lightly up the steps. The suddenness and precipitation with which the embrace was concluded, the hasty manner in which the youth seated himself at a desk in the far corner of the apartment and began writing furiously, and the guilty way in which the lady became engrossed in a book excited the suspicion of the watcher, and he waited to see the denouement. In another instant the portieres were thrown aside by the gentleman who had arrived in the cab, and the lady, with an evident exclamation of surprise, hastened to embrace her husband, while the young man at the desk—well, he just kept on writing, and as the reporter turned to go he mentally thanked his stars that out in his humble little house, where a cheery, helpful little wife waited to greet him with a smile and a kiss, there was no necessity of introducing into the family circle a youth who held the important position of private secretary.

## How We Have Improved on the Ancients.

From the April Forum.

Let us sum up the conclusions of this paper: 1. The desire of food has passed the stage of gluttony and become in Europe and America only a subordinate branch of general luxury. 2. Sexual love has undergone a glorifying transformation from a universal brute instinct to (very commonly) an exalting ideal passion. 3. Indolence has given way to almost feverish activity. 4. Hatred has diminished in frequency and intensity, and revenge has become obsolete. Anger is perhaps more often self-controlled. 5. Sympathy with suffering has vastly increased and largely displaced heteropathy and aversion. 6. Wholesome indignation has waned disastrously, and remorse has disappeared. 7. Avarice has almost died out, and given place to acquisitiveness and covetousness, often united with prodigality, and giving rise to a gigantic extension of the vice of gambling. 8. The desire of fame has degenerated into the love of notoriety. 9. The love of natural beauty, especially of the wilder sort, has been born, and has become a factor in modern enjoyment. 10. Humor is more common, more refined, and more prized. 11. Men and women have become almost nomadic in their habits, so perpetual are their removals and journeys. 12. The minds of men have become infinitely more subtle, their emotions more varied, more complex, more rarefied in every way; thereby new dangers of duplicity are incurred, and at the same time the capacity for high emotional and intellectual pleasures is enlarged.

## A REAL ESTATE EXCHANGE.

VIEWS OF PROMINENT BROKERS AS TO ITS FEASIBILITY.

How Such an Organization Would Benefit All Those Interested in Washington Realty—New Developments in Anacostia—Hopes of Speedy Annexation.

In recent letters to THE HERALD I have advocated the establishment of a Real Estate Exchange in Washington, briefly citing a few advantages that such an organization would yield the brokers. Realizing the difficulties to be encountered, I enclosed the articles to several prominent brokers and requested their judgment in the matter. The idea met with hearty concurrence, tempered in some instances by the fear that the plan would meet obstacles too great to be overcome. That a similar project met with failure a few years ago I am well aware, but that the need yet exists, and in a greater degree, is unanimously conceded. In discussing the question in THE HERALD my greatest hope was to create an active interest among the brokers on the subject, leaving to older and wiser heads the control and development of the plan. If this is accomplished a general movement on the part of those interested, concert of action, and energetic pursuance of the project will insure its success. Unanimity is of vital importance. The efforts of one or a dozen men will effect nothing unless the cause is a common one. I give below some of the letters received in reply to my communication previously referred to:

VIEWS OF MR. J. B. WIMER.

"I quite agree with you," writes Mr. Wimer, "as to the benefits of such an organization as a Real Estate Exchange, but fear after the experience we have had in endeavoring to effect such a body that your efforts may not be attended with altogether satisfactory results. I would like to see realized such a body as would bring in all that were reputable under such established regulations as would debar those not in the Exchange from doing a real estate business, but with the numbers we have here and the varied character of the participants I do not deem it feasible to accomplish it in a way that will be permanent and effective."

MR. JOHN A. PRESCOTT'S IDEAS.

"Your communication of the 31st ultimo, asking for an expression of my views on the subject of a Real Estate Exchange, was duly received. I have had little or no experience with the subject matter submitted for my consideration, as when there actually existed in this city a Real Estate Exchange I did no business with or through it, preferring to act on my own lines and in my own way, independently of individuals or combination of individuals, though I am a hearty believer in cooperation. Perhaps a well-conducted Real Estate Exchange might simplify the conduct of the business and tend toward a closer and better understanding between brokers, whereby brokers and clients might both be benefited, but, as I have said before, this suggestion is in no degree based on personal experience. I hope you may succeed in your purpose to create a favorable feeling in the community in behalf of the project, and wish you the reward that should always be given to well-directed and honest endeavor."

HILL & JOHNSON.

Mr. Hill, of the above firm, in conversation with the writer, stated that in his opinion such an organization, properly conducted, would be of great benefit to the real estate interest.

MR. J. P. DYER.

"I think a Real Estate Exchange would be a good thing for us, not only a benefit to our business, but to the entire District."

JOS. REDFERN & SONS.

"We most heartily endorse your expressions contained in last Sunday's HERALD in regard to a Real Estate Exchange, and trust you will meet with success. The benefits to be derived from such an organization in our office are many. It will at least tend to equalize rates and promote legitimate trade, which alone should be a sufficient guarantee of its prosperity in the near future."

MR. L. L. JOHNSON, OF J. H. GRAY & CO.

"If all the brokers will unite and extend support to such an organization, its success is assured. Of its beneficial results, no doubt can exist. Its greatest good will be its protection to the legitimate broker."

MR. CHARLES A. SHIELDS.

"I think the establishment of an Exchange would be of the greatest benefit to the regularly licensed real estate agents, but that the initiation fee and annual dues should not be as high as the figures you name, certainly not for the first year, so as to induce every broker, so far as possible, to become a member."

MR. DAVID L. GITT.

"I am in receipt of your courteous note, and beg to suggest that in my opinion your plan is not only practicable, but entirely free from any objection. The need for just such an organization as you suggest has long been felt. The only wonder to me is that it has not been suggested before. It would be not only a convenience, but it is a necessity. This is a wide field and the real estate market an active one. A place where operators could meet daily would save time and labor; besides, it is about time that we should know who are the operators and who are not. Such an association as you suggest would rid us of a great many petty annoyances and protect the legitimate dealers from the encroachments of the street fakirs."

ACTIVITY IN ANACOSTIA.

The California Syndicate are having plats made of their recently-purchased land on Eastern Branch. All of the streets are to conform with those of the District. The citizens of this suburb are confident that Anacostia will at an early date be included in Washington, and look forward to the annexation with great joy. A new road from Forestville to Suitland, approaching the District in a line with Pennsylvania avenue extended, is contemplated. This would save several miles for those who travel between Washington and Marlboro. Mr. A. E. Randall will at an early date erect twenty-five cottages on Congress Heights for the accommodation of the St. Elizabeth Hospital employees. Mr. C. P. Smith has completed his subdivision opposite the Orphan Asylum and has disposed of some of the lots. Mr. Appold and Mr. Mills have

both just completed pleasant cottages on Jefferson street.

NEW BUILDINGS.

The old building on the southwest corner of Twelfth and F streets northwest, recently purchased by Col. Strong, is being rapidly torn down to make way for a handsome, eight-story office building, to be at once erected.

A favorable report was made by the House Agricultural Committee on the bill appropriating \$250,000 for the erection of a building in this city for the scientific purposes of the Agricultural Department.

Woodward & Lothrop have excavated for their new store building, 610-615 Tenth street northwest. When completed it will connect in the rear with the present establishment, corner of Eleventh and F streets. This addition will cost \$75,000.

Mr. A. S. Pratt is building a handsome dwelling on Iowa Circle, No. 9, at a cost of \$14,000. Jacob Frank will build a club house on the corner of Thirteenth street extended and Whitney avenue, to cost \$25,000.

A Masonic Temple of brick and brownstone front is to be erected at Brightwood. J. G. Meyers is the architect. 935 F street northwest.

## AT SECOND HAND.

How the Business of Dealing in Cast-Off Clothing is Conducted.

The small, dark shop was packed with pile after pile of second-hand clothing, old shoes, ancient hats, and various small articles of personal attire. The proprietor sat cross-legged upon a low perch placed by the shop's one window, busily stitching away at an ancient garment he was putting in repair.

"Where do all these come from?" said he, repeating the reporter's question as he climbed down from his perch and gazed about with a proud smile of proprietorship. "Well, of course, all of these things are second-hand articles which my partner has picked up about the city. Partner? Why, certainly; in this business it is necessary to have two engage in it, one on the outside who does the buying, the other in the shop to dispose of the stuff."

"How does your partner operate?" asked the reporter.

"He goes about the city, picking out the nice-looking houses where he thinks men live who wear plenty of good clothes and who will have some that are pretty well worn which they would be willing to get rid of for a small sum. Or he sees people on the streets who are neat dressers and tries to find out what their names are. If he finds this out he hunts up their addresses in the directory and mails them our business card or calls on them himself. In this way we get all of our stock. When a coat becomes frayed about the sleeves it is cast aside by the average man as unfit for wear, but when we get hold of it, by snipping off the frayed edges and binding it with braid, we give it the appearance of a new garment. Vests and trousers that become shiny, we clean them thoroughly, press them out, and presto! you would not recognize the article. Sometimes we purchase an entire suit for \$1, spend a little time upon it, and probably dispose of it for \$5 or \$10. You see we must understand enough of tailoring to be able to repair and scour clothing."

"Who are your best customers?"

"The laboring classes as a rule, although you would be surprised to see the number of men of more means who on the quiet do not hesitate to purchase these renovated garments. Of course, they don't come to our shop, but send for my partner to come to see them and bring the goods with him. They become acquainted with him when he calls upon them to purchase their cast-off clothes, and from being the seller often in time becomes the buyer. And why not? We give them very nice-looking clothes, and we fit them well at less than one-third of the sum they would be compelled to pay if they purchased of a tailoring firm."

"A good many of these customers are Government employes who don't get princely salaries and spend most of their money in paying board and trying to appear wealthy, so when they can get hold of a suit of second-hand clothes that looks well enough, and of fine material they quickly close a bargain with us. And do you know, there are some small clothing stores whose proprietors would appear outraged if such a thing was mentioned, who are not above sending out a 'runner' to buy up old clothes, which they repair and scour and place in their regular stock as new goods? These do not belong to the good class of clothiers, but the tricky fellows, who haul you in off the street."

"Any of your good and class of customers buy old shoes?" the reporter asked, glancing at a heap of these stacked up by the door.

"Very rarely. Now and then a pair of slippers may be sold, but seldom a pair of shoes. Very few hats are sold to them. They are not partial either to old hats or shoes."

"Are the farmers and farm hands that come to town pretty good customers?"

"Well, they buy coats and vests mostly, or old hats and boots. They never buy them for Sunday wear, but for the every-day rough usage. No, sir. When a countryman wants a Sunday suit he isn't going to have anything second-hand, no matter how good it may be, but he is going to the clothing stores and purchase a brand-new suit, no matter how poor the quality may be as compared with the material I could have sold him for the same money. The darkey is just like him in that respect. He always goes to a second-hand clothes-dealer for his working and every-day clothes, but when it comes to holiday or Sunday attire he is going to get something real pretty, and with plenty of color in it, of a legitimate dealer. He will buy his high silk hat from us, however, and also his shoes, as he does not like to break in new shoes."

## Letter-Carriers' Relief Fund Benefit.

The Bohemian Dramatic Association will present "Fanchon the Cricket" at Lincoln Music Hall next Wednesday evening, as a testimonial benefit for the Letter-Carriers' Relief Association, whose funds were entirely exhausted during the recent "grip" epidemic. The letter-carriers being prevented from selling tickets themselves, under the rulings of the Department, it has been deemed expedient to reach the public by other means, in order to make the benefit a grand success; and with that end in view, Messrs. E. F. Guzman and J. A. Plant have been appointed and authorized to wait on the principal business men of the city to receive subscriptions and issue tickets for the entertainment. The cause is worthy of generous treatment, and it is earnestly hoped that a handsome sum will be subscribed to crown the success of the entertainment, which will be of the highest order.

At this season of the year one generally loses his appetite and becomes weak, and a good remedy is R. Fortner & Co.'s celebrated beers.

## HE STOLE FOR A LIVING.

BUT NEVER TOOK NOTHIN' FROM THOSE HE KNEWED.

Frank Confession of a Walf at the Newsboys' Home—Queer Experiences with Youthful Strays Whom the Aid Society Endeavor to Save.

A ragged, gaunt-looking little chap, with great, dark eyes, sat before the kitchen fire of the Newsboys' Aid Society building, ravenously devouring a bowl of soup and large slices of bread. There could be no doubt about it, the urchin was hungry.

"Taste good?" asked the reporter.

The lad merely nodded.

"Pretty hungry, eh?"

"Don't I look like it?"

"When did you eat last?"

"Day before yesterday."

"What do you do for a living?"

"I steals now and then."

"What do you steal?"

"Most anythin' I can get me han's on."

"Isn't this a rather unusual case?" asked the reporter of Agent Sweeney, who was standing by.

"No, not particularly. We often have these small chaps come in and announce in the most candid manner when questioned that thieving forms their chief means of support. We take in all the stray waifs that come to us for assistance or are brought to us by the newsboys, who know that we will look after them. The Police Court, too, furnishes us with a great many, who are arrested for their first offense and whom the court is desirous of giving a chance to reform before sending them to the reform school. We take them and clothe, board, and lodge them until we are able to place them out with people who will treat them kindly. Or we get them places in offices and business houses during the day and keep them here at night, so that we can watch over and give them a little schooling for a few cents a day."

"Perhaps you noticed a day or so ago an account of two small colored boys whom I was compelled to send before Judge Miller, as I could do nothing with them whatever. One was sent to the Reform School, the other returned to his home relative, an aunt, from whom he had pilfered \$5 and spent it in indulging himself in one 'good, fair feed,' as he termed it. Then he came to me with a pitiful tale of having no home and nowhere to sleep. Those were the most vicious boys I have ever met with. They fought all along the line of march to the Police Court, kicking and biting at every passer-by within reach of foot or tooth. They were naturally depraved."

"This, however, was only one of the numerous similar cases. With the boys who sell papers or black boots it is rather different. Many of them are as truthful and many little fellows as you will find in families of the better classes. There exists a spirit of honor among them, and it is rarely, indeed, that one of them is ever dishonest in dealing with us. Many of them are anxious to better their condition, and not a few are hard workers at the simple courses of instruction we give them every evening. For these lads we endeavor to do all within our power, fostering their ambitions and securing them positions when possible. Among the boys sent us from the Police Court we seldom find a newsboy. Of course the newsboys are not angels by any means. Yet, as I say, they take pride in being 'square,' as they term it, and this root of honesty planted in their breasts is often the quality that saves them from becoming members of the criminal class."

The hungry-looking lad had paused during Mr. Sweeney's conversation, and sat, chin in hand, listening attentively. "You kin bet I travels on the 'square,'" he remarked. "Is that so? Why, you just admitted you stole for a living?"

"Well, that's different. I don't take nothin' from those I know."

"But don't it bing wrong to steal from anybody?"

The urchin made no reply.

"Well, perhaps," continued Mr. Sweeney, "we can do something with this lad. He claims to deal honestly with his companions, and that fact may work out his salvation."

"Where did you learn to steal?" asked the reporter of the lad.

"Pap learned me."

"Where is he now?"

"Dead."

"Where is your mother?"

"She's dead, too!"

"Where's your home?"

A disdainful smile played upon his hard, sullen features.

"Aint got no home."

The boy's feet were bare and the reporter inquired if he had come to the home in that condition.

"No, we took them from him," Mr. Sweeney said, "to prevent him running away. You see, we have several times brought these boys here and after having fed them they would develop a strong tendency to escape, as if they feared we meant to do them an injury. So we have hit upon this scheme to keep them with us until we can discover whether it is possible to do anything toward their reformation. To make it attractive for them we give an entertainment every Monday night on a platform we have erected."

"How many inmates have you at present?" asked the reporter.

"About seventy now, but more are coming in every day, and before the month is over we will have perhaps one hundred."

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